

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 PM-07 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 CEQ-02 EPA-04

COA-02 DLOS-06 DRC-01 /160 W
----- 075393

R 010205Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0288

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

COMSUBPAC PEARL HARBOUR HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2698

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION TOKYO INFO COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN
COMNAVJ YOKOSUKA JAPAN COMFLEACTS OKINAWA FROM AMCONSUL
NAHA DTG 270811Z FEB 74 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL NAHA 081

E.O. 11652: DECLAS MAR 1, 1975

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING REACTIONS

1. SINCE THE DIET DISCLOSURE OF IRREGULARITIES IN THE ANALYSIS
OF MONITORING SAMPLES, THE OKINAWAN PRESS HAS DEVOTED REGULAR
COVERAGE TO TOKYO DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THIS STORY. SECOND
AND THIRD LEVEL FRONT PAGE STORIES HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY
OCCASIONAL VIEWING WITH ALARM EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT LOCAL
EVENTS, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS GROWING FROM GOV-
ERNOR YARA'S DECISION TO BLOCK CONSTRUCTION OF A PETROLEUM
STORAGE COMPLEX (CTS), HAVE OVERSHADOWED THE MONITORING ISSUE
BY A WIDE MARGIN.

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2. THE EVENING EDITION OF THE FEB 26 OKINAWA TIMES CARRIED A STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE QTE UNUSUAL RADIOACTIVITY DISCOVERED UNQTE WHICH CONVEYED THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY HAD ADMITTED THAT OKINAWAN WATERS WERE POLLUTED BY RADIOACTIVITY CAUSED BY U.S. SUBMARINE VISITS. ONLY THOSE WHO READ THE ARTICLE TO THE END LEARNED THAT THE OFFICIAL APPARENTLY SAID THAT NUCLEAR POWERED SUBS WERE ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE SOURCES OF COBALT 60 WHICH ALSO OCCURS NATURALLY AND THAT A PERSON EATING THE CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH DAILY FOR 50 YEARS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY ONE TEN THOUSANDTH OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS. REACTING TO THE STORY, THE PREFECTURE REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL BEGIN INDEPENDENT SAMPLING OF 17 LOCATIONS, INCLUDING NAHA PORT AND NAKAGUSUKU BAY, ON MARCH 1 AND WILL BEGIN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS ON APRIL 1ST.

3. COMMENT. THE LEFT HAS SO FAR KEPT A LOW PROFILE ON THIS ISSUE PROBABLY REMEMBERING THE WRATH THEY EARNED LAST YEAR FROM FISHING INTERESTS WHO BLAMED THEM FOR THE LOSS OF EARNINGS WHICH FOLLOWED AN EARLIER RADIOACTIVITY SCARE. THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT TOO WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS ISSUE CAREFULLY. HOWEVER, THE GOJ'S VULNERABILITY ON MONITORING COULD MAKE THE ISSUE IRRESISTIBLE TO THE LEFT, PARTICULARLY IF THEY CAN FIND ANY QTE SCIENTIFIC UNQTE SUPPORT FROM THE RESULTS OF THE PREFECTURAL MONITORING PROGRAM. SYLVESTER UNQUOTE. SHOESMITH

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